

Message Text

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54

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 XMB-02 /107 W

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R 011531Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6750

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4979

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, NL

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN NPT ADHERENCE

REFS: STATE 227379, 230538

1. WE CONVEYED GIST OF MESSAGES IN REFTELS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL VAN VLIET (SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS) SEPTEMBER 29. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH STATE SECRETARY KOOIJMANS, ON LATTE'S RETURN LATER THIS WEEK FROM NEW YORK, POSSIBILITY OF NETHERLANDS MAKING REPRESENTATION TO SOUTH AFRICANS IN PRETORIA ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN PARA 4, STATE 227379.

2. OUR CONVERSATION WITH VAN VLIET SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHY KOOIJMANS ASKED AMBASSADOR GOULD TO KEEP SECRET THE FACT OF NETHERLANDS' PARTICIPATION IN CONSORTIUM.

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WE LEARNED THAT TWO OF THREE CABINET MINISTERS PRIMARILY

RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING DECISION WHETHER TO APPROVE CREDIT AND EXPORT LICENSE--DUISENBERG OF FINANCE AND LUBBERS OF ECONOMICS--HAVE ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS IN FAVOR OF SALE. THIRD MINISTER--VAN DER STOEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY--HAS NOT, BUT IS LEANING IN DIRECTION OF APPROVAL. VAN DER STOEL RECOGNIZES THE STRONG ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS MADE BY HIS COLLEAGUES. (THEY POINT OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PRINCIPAL DUTCH BENEFICIARY WOULD BE RHIJN-SCHELDE-VEROLME, WHICH IS PRESENTLY SUFFERING HEAVY LOSSES FROM ITS SHIPBUILDING SECTOR, AND THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE EASED BY THE 3,000 MAN-YEARS OF WORK NECESSARY TO MAKE REACTOR VESSELS.) ON OTHER HAND VAN DER STOEL FEARS BAD EFFECT THAT NEWS OF DUTCH PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE ON NETHERLANDS' PAINSTAKINGLY CULTIVATED RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN BLACK AFRICA.

3. ALTHOUGH CABINET IN MOST CASES WOULD FOLLOW LEAD OF THOSE MEMBERS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE, THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONS, DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH CONTROVERSY THE SALE STIRS AMONG PRESS, PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC IN HOLLAND. VAN VLIET THINKS THERE WILL BE AN "UNHOLY ROW". HE SAID MINISTER VAN DER STOEL HOPES TO KEEP MATTER CONFIDENTIAL AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, PRESUMABLY TO ALLOW TIME FOR CONSORTIUM MEMBERS TO TRY TO PERSUADE SOUTH AFRICA TO ADHERE TO NPT AND TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS.
GOULD

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